

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team  
Meeting Notes  
March 10, 2004**

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) announced that a tabletop exercise and assessment of Emergency Operations Center (EOC) capabilities will be conducted on March 23. The exercise will simulate 36 hours of operations and involve a wildfire. Also, Doug and several others recently attended the Wildland Interface 2004 Conference. Finally, Doug explained that shelter-in-place is one option for protecting the public during a wildfire. This may occur in schools, at home, or at other locations. During any shelter-in-place or evacuation operation, pets and domestic animals would be provided for.

Jim Whittington (Bandelier National Monument) reported that agency wildfire training will be completed by April 15. Jim also noted that the recent snowstorms may have delayed the onset of the fire season by two to four weeks.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) is updating the wildfire behavior modeling system in preparation for the EOC exercise.

Susan DiMauro (Davey Resources Group) has been organizing Los Alamos County Defensible Space Day, which will be conducted at Ashley Pond on April 13. For further information, contact Susan at 505-681-2358.

Shannon Smith (Infrastructure Projects, LANL) announced that thinning in Rendija Canyon will begin in early April. Thinning in Los Alamos Canyon and at the University House will also be conducted this summer.

Tom Johnston (Santa Fe National Forest) is proposing to develop a GIS operational-fire application for the Española Ranger District. This application would be developed by Space Imaging, Incorporated.

Bill Armstrong (Santa Fe National Forest) reported that the thinning in Pueblo Canyon is 95 percent complete. An additional 273 hazard trees in the northeastern Los Alamos area will also be removed. Thinning in unburned areas along Arizona Avenue will begin in March. Additionally, removal of hazard trees along State Highway 4 will begin in June.

Manny L, Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) will attend an initial attack meeting in Santa Fe on Friday. Manny is also working with Ed Hoth to install identifying signs at the entrances to LANL fire roads. In addition, dip tanks will be installed at strategic locations throughout LANL before the fire season begins.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, March 24, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice ([balice@lanl.gov](mailto:balice@lanl.gov), 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.